

# TO THE PEOPLE OF PIGGOTT, ARK.

The case of Walker vs. York was tried in Pemiscot County, Missouri, before Judge and Jury. Hearing the evidence extended a year and a half. The verdict convicted Walker of grafting, lying, drunkenness and immorality; of being an anarchist and Socialist, political turncoat and church hypocrite of the deepest dye. All that was alleged against York was some garbled records, dragged from the dust of the grave where buried more than a quarter of a century ago. Pretty decent sort of a fellow, don't you think, that his assailants had to go back more than a quarter of a century to find the least fault against him. Walker was sentenced to leave Hayti. He fled to Piggott, Arkansas. The Judge and the Jury were the thousands of good people of Pemiscot County, Missouri, than whom there is none better under God's shining sun. A brief summary of the trial and evidence follows:

## EXPLANATORY.

"That which seems to be is not;  
That which is is not known;  
Ill-got gains are dearly bought;  
Retribution soon will come."

As this controversy is to the unfamiliar reader so apparently unnecessary, far-fetched and absurd, a word of explanation to begin with will not only be proper, but we hope appreciated. We want to avoid as much misunderstanding as possible. Life has taught us that it is from misapprehension that most of our differences arise. We have nothing to gain by deception and no desire to deceive anyone. Indeed, our interest, and we believe the interest of the public, can be better served by the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Real men, as a rule, are first discovered by their enemies. Their antagonists turn on the searchlight and the proof of merit will depend upon being able to stand the glare. Either dress or gold is found. If C. N. Walker is the saint he claims to be he will have nothing to lose by a full investigation of the charges against him. If we falsely accuse him, and it is discovered that we have, he will only shine the brighter in the new light; and the blackness with which he endeavors to destroy and doom us will only be made darker still, as it should be. With this knowledge, we insist the investigation be thorough. Don't take our word or his. Let disinterested parties supply the facts. Believing this to be the proper procedure, we shall have as little as possible to say about ourselves. Besides, it is unnecessary for us to furnish proof of our character to the people here at home. Most of them have known us since we first came to Missouri, twenty-eight years ago, and hundreds who came here from our boyhood home in Tennessee, forty miles away, have known us from our mother's breast. The proof of our standing should be sufficiently attested by the fact that Walker came here with the avowed purpose of putting us out of business and making us walk out of town, with the result that after the most desperate and disgraceful fight ever made by any newspaper in the world, he had to do the "walking." All that Walker published against us at Piggott, except the added abuse he now hurls at long range, he published here. He was aided day and night—mostly night—by a gang of as cowardly and craven hellions as ever escaped the penitentiary or went unhung. They resorted to everything but murder and attempted that, as the police records of this city will show. The people were the judge and the jury, and they stood by the editor of the Herald. The people of Piggott need no proof of this, as Walker's presence in their midst certainly shows who was chosen. At the end of the fight, for it was a fight in every sense the word implies, our business was at least five times greater than when hostilities began. Our subscription list grew until we can say, without boasting, that it is undoubtedly the largest in the county, and our columns bear proof that no other paper in the county carries as much regular advertising as the Herald does. This is the kind of testimonials we give you, good people. Actual support is actual proof, beside which a few random "letters of recommendation" (f) secured here and there by questionable methods is worthless. As all reputable merchants, bankers, lawyers, doctors and others in need of our service patronize the Herald, it stands to reason we could get their letters of recommendation, not a few, but thousands; but we have no need of them here, and as the people of Piggott are not interested in us, nor we materially in them, we prefer to leave it to them to judge us as they will and may, after making what investigation they care to, if any. More than a year ago, when Walker published here the same villainous attack he is making on us at Piggott, we secured and published numerous letters from the best people in West Tennessee giving their highest commendation of our boyhood, and praising our success in rising above almost insurmountable obstacles and misfortunes; but we have not space, nor do we see the necessity of reproducing these for the benefit of a people we never expect to see, nor whose time we could not ask to read them.

We are sorry that the nature of this controversy necessitates the use of harsh and vitriolic language, for we had rather speak kindly than ill of any man. We would rather give any poor, struggling mortal cause to smile than frown; we would rather wipe a tear from a weeping eye than to sting a saddened soul with pain; we would rather strew flowers along the way of life than thorns; and as sad as portions of our life has been, in the shining hours of our boyhood days, when the joy of youth should have been ours, we feel deeply for the defenseless and fallen. Our hand is ever extended to him who is down. But being the victim of so much injustice, and seeing too often the villainous hypocrite go unpunished, has embittered us against fraud and pretense. This is quite natural for a man of our experience, and if we seem over zealous in our efforts to expose fraud and rascality we hope we may be pardoned, for the reasons given.

Subject what follows to the acid test. If we deceive you in one particular, disbelieve the whole. As a matter of fairness, the same rule should apply to our assailant. If we prove he has lied in one instance what credence can you give any of his statements? That we will prove he

has wantonly and brazenly lied, not only in one instance, but many, is to say the least. His every material statement is diabolically false. We have said he is a crook, a fraud, a cheat, a drunkard, a libertine, a character assassin—everything vile, repulsive, hellish—all of which will be proven beyond question. But why should we do this? Since he has fled from Hayti, why should we be interested in exposing him to a people we have never seen and never expect to see? The answer is this: When Walker fled from this city to Piggott the first thing he did after landing there, as the files of his paper will show, was to renew his slanders of Pemiscot county, especially Hayti. Even denounced the people who brought him here. Said they were skulking cowards. Every newspaper in Pemiscot county he branded as subservient to an evil interest. Besides the Herald there are three other papers in the county. Neither noticed his charge. Perhaps they considered him too contemptible. We recognized his contemptibleness as much as the other papers, but knew he was among strangers, whom he was calculated to deceive. The editor of the Herald has lived in Pemiscot county twenty-eight years and is proud of its commercial and moral development. So when our good name was assailed, we arose to defend it. The first law of nature is self-defense. It is above every other law. We knew well the nature of the assault the old crook would make upon us. He made the same here. But we did not fail our duty, and never will, as we see it. Personal abuse has no terror for us. We are used to it by this time. Assassins may kill the body, but never the soul.

We are aware of the disgusting nature of a controversy of this sort, especially to a people who are tired of it, as are the people of Pemiscot county are. But this is not intended for the people here. They know enough about Walker to emit forever the memory of his coming and going. This information is for the people of Piggott and Clay county, Arkansas, a people of whom we have no favors to ask, except they do not believe us the monster Walker paints us, unless confirmed by their own investigation.

Since Walker renewed the assault after he went to Piggott, it is not our fault that it is prolonged. After he had printed his last issue here, and was preparing to leave, he sent two men to us, namely, Ed Juden, postmaster, and Dr. J. M. Phipps, bearing messages that Walker had requested, with tears in his eyes, that we desist in exposing him and let him depart in peace. The request was granted. We have never punished a fallen foe after he has bellowed "calf-ropes!" Evidently, however, he was not asking permanent peace, but an armistice, as the files of his paper will show, upon landing in Piggott he immediately opened up his mud guns. This, he knew, or should have known, we would not stand for, and if he cannot stand the gaff, he has only himself to blame.

With this explanation, here goes:

## TO BEGIN.

As this information is chiefly for the people of Piggott, it will do well to begin with some of the deals Walker has pulled off there since he put in his appearance. It will afford them opportunity to verify statements at their home, if they care to.

First, then, comes the case of Mrs. Mollie White, the widow lady of Hayti, who Walker recently enticed over there, and influenced in his snave, sinister way, to exchange her home here and cash, for property there. Walker explains the matter thus:

York charges me with aiding Bruce & Castleberry, and Mr. Evans, of this city, to defraud a very dear old lady friend, Mrs. Mollie White, Hayti, out of her home. \* \* \* Mrs. White, who came here, and after examining the property, made the agent and the owners a proposition, and they accepted it, taking my valuation of the Hayti property at what I said it ought to be worth. When Mrs. White returned to Hayti my enemies began to work on her, and possibly led the lady to think she had made a bad deal. She sent the republican manipulator of elections, B. L. Guffey, lawyer, over here to examine the property and the title, and he reported to her that she had not made a bad trade, and that the title was good. Mrs. White then came over and talked the matter over with the gentlemen here she had purchased the property of, and offered to put in the Hayti property she had deeded and two additional lots, and some cash, but Messrs. Bruce & Castleberry did not care to let their Piggott property go for Hayti property, and gave Mrs. White back the deed she had made them. The only part I acted in the transaction was being the custodian, by agreement of all the parties, to the holding of the deeds.—C. N. Walker, Critic, August 20, 1915.

We are not acquainted with Messrs. Bruce & Castleberry, never heard of them before, but have no doubt they are perfect gentlemen, honest and upright; and if they are, we stake our judgment of human affairs that they will not endorse Walker's statement as true, for on the face of it, it reeks with falsehood. You people of Piggott, ask Messrs. Bruce & Castleberry if Mrs. White went over there and offered them additional property to hold them to a contract legally confirmed, for which they held signed deeds; or did she want her deed back, and be released of payment of \$50 that had been demanded for its return. After Mrs. White discovered she had been led into making a bad deal and asked to be released from the contract and was told she could have her deed back on payment of \$50,

## THE CAMERA DON'T LIE



Wm. YORK, Editor Hayti Herald

We let the photograph answer Walker's "pen picture."

## THE CAMERA DON'T LIE

Is it reasonable to believe that she offered additional property to hold a contract that was already legally binding, had she wanted it to remain so? After she had consulted two lawyers, sending one over there, B. L. Guffey, as Walker tells you, paying him \$13, to see if she could recover her deed without payment of \$50 demanded, and after he had filed a lis pendens notice in circuit court, do you believe she would have gone over herself and offered additional property to hold a legally binding contract she was trying to get released of? This is the preposterous falsehood Walker is asking the people to believe, but we are sure Messrs. Bruce & Castleberry do not share in that insult to the intelligence of their community. And if it was Walker's "enemies" who caused the lady to become dissatisfied with her deal, then his "enemies," in this case, are Esq. Sam White, the lady's son, and Mrs. T. D. Currier, her daughter. Nor did "York charge Messrs. Bruce & Castleberry with Walker." As we say, "we never heard of them before. We have no doubt they acted in good faith, and when they discovered the "dear old lady friend" of Walker was dissatisfied, her deed was given back cheerfully. Walker acknowledges all we accused him of. He admits he invited his "dear old lady friend" over there, advised the deal, and that the parties took his "valuation;" that he was the go-between and "holder of the deeds." Walker is simply trying to hide in Bruce & Castleberry's woodpile. That is why he rings their names into the middle, when cornered, as he always does.

Now, good people of Piggott, here is a chance to test Walker's statements and ours, and remember we have requested that if you find us false in one instance, disbelieve the whole.

## BEATS HAYTI CREDITORS.

Let us pass to the second case. If the above is not proof positive that Walker is a liar and deceiver of the most brazen sort, this will convince you, if you are not one of his blinded and hypnotized victims. He says:

I do not owe anyone in Hayti a cent. Before leaving there I paid every cent I owed, except fifty cents, and that was overlooked, but has been paid since.—C. N. Walker, Critic, August 20, 1915.

This is a lie people of Piggott can nail for themselves if they want to. All you have to do is to step to the courthouse at Piggott and turn to Book No. 2, page 212, and you will find a mortgage recorded in favor of C. J. McElheny, Hayti, for \$300.00, and on page 213, same book, you will find another, in favor of the same party, for \$401.00. We have it straight that C. J. McElheny is going to try to convince the "gentleman" (f) by legal proceedings that there is at least one man in Hayti he owes more than a cent.

Now, this sort of crookedness and lying is not something he did back in 1885, when a boy, but is his act of today. It is his latest, right up to the minute, and the record of Piggott, not of Tennessee, furnish the proof.

The fact is, he left Hayti owing various sums, and the reason he did not owe more is because he could not get trusted for more. He left here owing the East Arkansas Lumber Company, and owing residence and office rent. Riley Summers, from whom he rented office while here, forbade him moving his junk until he paid a balance of \$12.50 due. In the presence of witnesses Walker, upon his "honor" (f) promised that he would leave the amount due with the Bank of Hayti, also the key. He did nothing of the kind. Later, when his big son, D. Z. Walker, came over, Mr. Summers started to stop shipment of their household goods, but the son, a chip off the old block, put up

such a pitiful tale for his daddy, and saying he would guarantee to see the amount paid, they were permitted to escape. Mr. Summers told Doug Walker he would not take his daddy's word, but would give him a chance to show his honesty. After waiting until tired for his money, Mr. Summers began writing letters, trying to collect, and a few days ago received the following reply from C. N. Walker:

The Critic, by the Clay County Progressive Publishing Company, Chas. N. Walker, Editor and Publisher. Incorporated for \$5,000.00. Circulation Guaranteed. E. W. Thornton, President; Douglass Z. Walker, Vice-President; W. O. Heath, Secretary-Treasurer. Board of Directors: E. W. Thornton, C. N. Walker, Douglas Z. Walker, W. O. Heath, C. W. Camfield, J. M. Walker.

Piggott, Ark., August 5, 1915.—Mr. R. F. Summers, Hayti, Mo.: Dear Sir—Your letter of the 4th inst. to hand, and in reply I have this to say—that at the proper time, I will place your letter before the postoffice department and have you settle with the United States Court for blackmailing me.

Your house was put in order, I paid you for every day I occupied it, and the key was delivered to you the day after the house was cleaned. I also left Mr. Rice in the building, and if there is any difference between the time I moved out, and the time the Rice stock was moved, I, OR MR. RICE OWE YOU FOR THAT TIME. I have made no charge against you for the hundreds of days you used a chair in my office, warmed by my fire, drank my ice-water and read my exchanges. If you have lined up with the dirty gang to injure me, proceed, and send as many affidavits here as you like, and also do not forget that you will get justice for attempting to blackmail me by threats for money and with affidavits. You have placed yourself in the position you occupy, and if I SCREW DOWN on you you will have only yourself to blame.

Respectfully,  
CHAS. N. WALKER.

From the above, the people of Piggott who have dealings with Walker should take warning. If you drink any of his ice water, sit by his fire or read his exchanges, and if he comes to owe you, and you try to collect, you will have to pay for his hospitality and be threatened with the Federal Courts. He will find some way to beat his bills. Rely upon that. The way he tries to bluff Mr. Summers shows the true character of the man. That is his game in everything he undertakes. If Mr. Summers was blackmailing him because he wanted his money, perhaps he can bring a counter charge with the letters written the "dear old lady friend" demanding \$50 ransom for the return of her deed, or for threatening to prosecute him for endeavoring to collect a debt justly due.

Remember, good people of Piggott, if you find us false in one thing, disbelieve all. If you apply this rule, how, now, does Walker stand?

## THAT \$1,000 GRAFT.

We now leave Walker's transactions at Piggott. It is a long leap from Arkansas to Anderson, Indiana, but his crookedness there should follow in this order. He says:

I lived in Anderson, Ind., a YEAR and when I left there I did not owe anyone a cent.—C. N. Walker, Critic, August 20, 1915.

Remember, that is the same reputation he gave himself at Hayti—owed no one here. But there is another voice. Hear it:

CHARLES REECE FENIMORE  
Room 211 Union Bldg.  
Anderson, Indiana.

September 13th, 1913.

Mr. Wm. York,  
Publisher Hayti Herald,  
Hayti, Mo.

Dear Sir: Your letter of August 23rd, regarding the activity of Charles N. Walker while he was located here, was handed to me as a representative of the Socialist Party, by the City Attorney. He turned your letter over to us as being more familiar with the matters regarding which you inquire.

After conference with the officials of my party here I will say that we have decided to give you the facts regarding our dealings with the aforesaid Walker. Of course we do not know, in fact we rather doubt the weight of our information with your people, but the files of the Critic will bear out our statements and you are welcome to take the knowledge for whatever it is worth.

Chas. N. Walker came to Anderson from Portageville, Mo., upon invitation of the Socialist Party of this city. The Socialists of this county paid him one thousand dollars for which he agreed to bring his plant here and publish a Socialist paper, placing the names of one thousand of our people on his subscription lists. Mr. Walker was in no way familiar with local conditions when he arrived and his ability to make good depended absolutely upon his taking the advice of those familiar with the situation. This he declined to do and after some flirtation with various political elements in this city he finally came out with drastic attacks upon the party organization and against those who were chiefly instrumental in raising the money which was paid him. He violated his contract with us, having signed an agreement not to publish anything dealing with local conditions which was not favorably passed upon by representatives of our party organization. We asked him to sign this contract, not only as a matter of our own protection, but also to safeguard him from any efforts which might be made to mislead him in local matters. That we were justified in asking his signature to such an agreement was certainly proven by the later developments. However, he saw fit to ignore his contract with us absolutely, repudiating it over his own signature in his paper, which he used for the last several months of his stay here in the most rabid and unjustifiable attacks upon the

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